

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
www.gracewoodstock.org



**September 27, 2026; 9:00 A.M.**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**



### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### **OPENING MUSIC**

“O God, My Faithful God”

setting, Kristina Rizzotto (Augsburg Fortress)

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who pours love into our hearts  
and healing upon the earth.

**Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.**

**Creation groans from overuse.**

**Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.**

**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.**

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love  
to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.**

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.**

**Renew us to live as your holy people,  
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation,  
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.  
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

### “The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

ELW 531 (One License)

*Please be seated.*

## WELCOME

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## FIRST READING:

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**, *Pew Bible, Old Testament*, pg. 784

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM:

**Psalms 25:1-9**

*The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.*

## SECOND READING:

**Philippians 2:1-13**, *Pew Bible, New Testament*, pg. 197

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 21:23-32**, *Pew Bible, New Testament*, pg. 23

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children are invited to come forward during the message.*

## SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**"O God, My Faithful God"**

ELW 806 (Public Domain)

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

ELW pg. 105

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us. *A brief silence.*

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## PEACE

*After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a sign of God's peace with one another.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation,  
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.  
All blessings are from you;  
make us generous with what we have.  
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts  
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,  
today and always.  
**Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.*



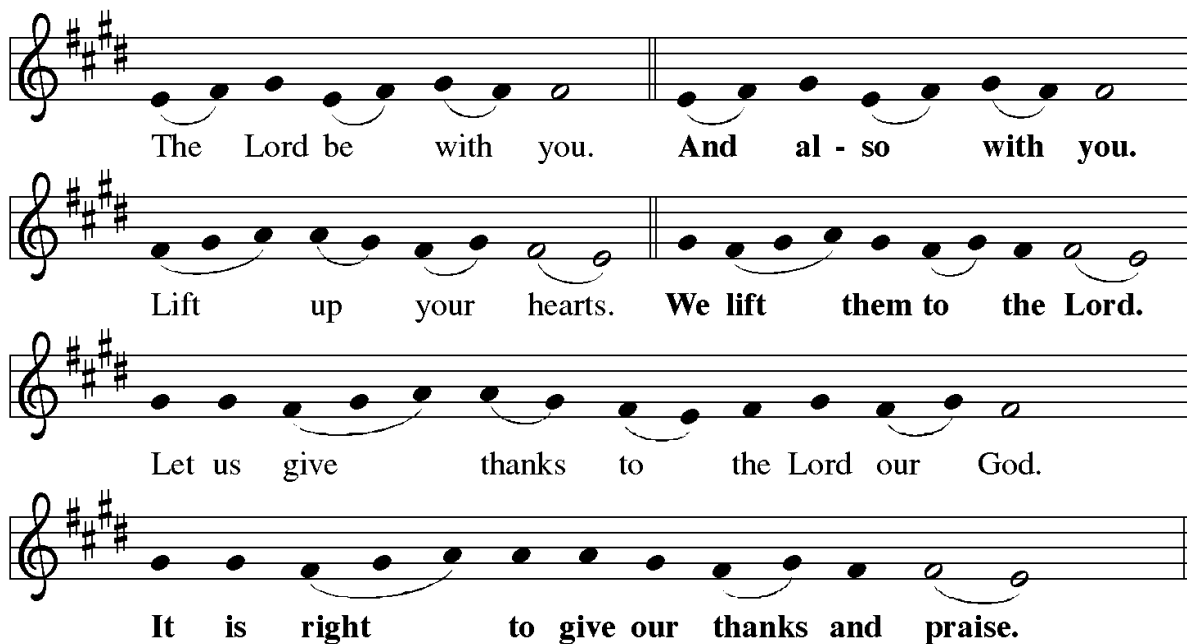
## OFFERING ANTHEM

"To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul"

George Emlen (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



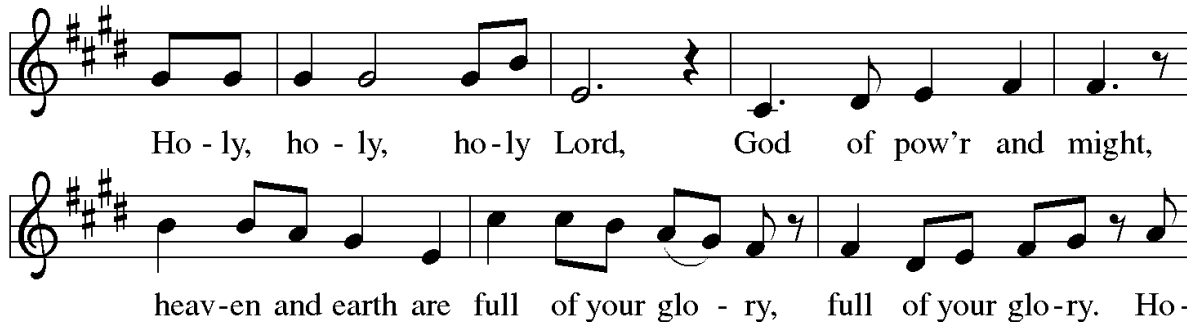
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg.191, left column

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the Lord's table.*

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

*Please be seated. The congregation will then commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place the empty cup in a tray on the front pew before returning to your seat. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#### "Lamb of God"

ELW pg.191 (Augsburg Fortress)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

#### "God Is Here!"

ELW 526 (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Sustaining God,  
**with this bread and cup,**  
**you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.**  
**By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.**  
**Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,**  
**following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.**  
**Amen.**

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| <h3><b>SENDING</b></h3> |
|-------------------------|

|                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. |
|------------------------------------------------------|

### **BLESSING**

The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of grace  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**“Strengthen for Service, Lord”**

ELW 497 (One License)

### **DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **CLOSING MUSIC**

**“God Is Here”**

setting, David Cherwien (One License)



### **Worship Team**

A/V Team: Andy Bellavia

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Sheri Conover, Sally Sheahan, Cara Schultz, Olivia Patterson

Greeters: Jace Hanlin, Owen Kleinjan

Acolyte: Cai Given

Reader: Sheri Conover

Ushers: Carrie Jarnecke, Kevin Jarnecke, Bob Teuber

Children's Sermon: Kim Ethridge

Altar Guild: Tammy Baier, Sheri Conover, Nan Behrns

Musicians: Jan Burns, Steve Johnson, Laudate

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

### **Presence Light Sponsor:**

In memory of Susan Moyer, Joan & Stan Russell, and Tom Conover; given by the Conover family.

### **Bulletin Sponsors:**

In honor of Elena's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday; given by Andy & MB Bellavia.

To the glory of God; given by Don & Marylee Steinwehe.



Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day. You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.



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## *Sewing Circle*

*Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesday*

*8:30am-12:00pm*

MAHJONG  
GAME NIGHT  
EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
TUESDAY

6:30PM-8:00PM

SIGN UP ONLINE OR WITH THE OFFICE

## *Daytime Pinochle*

*Every 1st & 3rd  
Wednesday*

*1:00pm-4:00pm*

*A Sincere Thanks to our Worship Volunteers!*